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U R G E N T

FIRST LEAD RUSSELL-CIA

BY JACK BELL

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, MAY 17 (AP)-THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVED 14 TO 5 TODAY A RESOLUTION TO GIVE IT A ROLE IN SUPERVISING OPERATIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THE COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, AMENDED THE PROPOSAL IN AN ATTEMPT TO EASE ITS PATH IN THE FACE OF STRONG OBSTACLES IN THE SENATE.

THE RESOLUTION'S CHIEF SPONSOR, SEN. EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, D-MINN., TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER THE CLOSED-DOOR SESSION "I THINK WE'LL GET ACTION ON THE FLOOR BEFORE THE END OF THE SESSION."

THE RESOLUTION WOULD ESTABLISH A NINE-MEMBER COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS TO OVERSEE U.S. FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS.

IN EFFECT, HOWEVER, MCCARTHY SAID, THE MAIN THRUST OF THE RESOLUTION WOULD BE TO PUT THREE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE CIA WATCHDOG COMMITTEE WHICH IS NOW MADE UP OF SEVEN SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES.

THE RESOLUTION RAN INTO STRONG OPPOSITION YESTERDAY FROM SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE CIA PANEL AS WELL AS HEAD OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

UNDER THE USUAL ETC., 3RD GRAF A21WX.

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Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.